

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~blood collection~~ needle protector for use with a needle assembly that includes a piercing end, a hub and a ~~blood collection~~ plastic tube attached to the hub, said protector comprising:

a ~~unitary~~ body including first and second open ends;

a plurality of side walls extending between the said first and second open ends, said side walls defining an interior chamber, wherein said first open end is adapted to receive the hub of a needle assembly;

wherein said second open end comprises a multiple profile window adapted to receive said tubing; and

wherein at least one of said side walls includes a retaining member adapted for contacting said hub of said needle assembly.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein one of said side walls further comprises first and second guiding ledges extending inwardly therefrom.

5. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 4 wherein the first and second guiding ledges inwardly extend from said side wall including said retaining member.

6. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein one of said side walls further includes and defines an axial groove.
7. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 6 wherein said side wall opposite said side wall[,] including said retaining member, defines said groove.
8. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein said retaining member comprises a detent depending from one of said side walls.
9. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein said body further comprises an outwardly extending radial flange at said open distal end.
10. (Original) The needle protector of Claim 1 further comprising a cap associated with said open distal end.
11. (Currently Amended) A ~~blood-collection~~ needle protector assembly comprising a needle assembly, including a piercing end attached to one end of a hub and a length of tubing attached to the opposite end of said hub, said hub further comprising a rib extending outwardly therefrom;

a body including first and second open ends; and

a plurality of side walls extending between said first and second open ends, wherein said first end is adapted to receive the hub of said needle assembly, wherein one of said side walls further includes a retaining member adapted for contacting said hub of said needle assembly and another of said side walls further includes and defines a groove extending axially from said first open distal end to said proximal end.
12. (New) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein one of said side walls defines a slot for viewing said interior chamber.

13. (New) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein said ~~unitary~~ body is comprised of a substantially transparent plastic material.
14. (New) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein said multiple profile window includes a dual profile window comprising relatively larger and smaller profiles.
15. (New) The needle protector of Claim 14 wherein the relatively smaller profile is sized to substantially retain said tubing.
16. (New) The needle protector of Claim 14 wherein the relatively larger profile is sized to allow for free movement of said tubing therethrough.
17. (New) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein said second open end comprises a multiple profile window adapted to receive said tubing.
18. (New) The needle protector of Claim 17 wherein said multiple profile window includes a dual profile window comprising relatively larger and smaller profiles.
19. (New) The needle protector of Claim 18 wherein the relatively smaller profile is sized to substantially retain said tubing.
20. (New) The needle protector of Claim 18 wherein the relatively larger profile is sized to allow for free movement of said tubing therethrough.
21. (New) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein one of said side walls defines a slot for viewing said interior chamber.
22. (New) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein one of said side walls further comprises first and second guiding ledges extending inwardly therefrom.
23. (New) The needle protector of Claim 22 wherein the first and second guiding ledges inwardly extend from said side wall including said retaining member.

24. (Currently Amended) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein said side wall opposite said side wall[,] including said retaining member, defines said groove.

25. (New) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein said retaining member comprises a detent depending from one of said side walls.

26 (new) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein said body further comprises an outwardly extending radial flange at said open distal end.

27. (New) The needle protector of Claim 11 further comprising a cap associated with said open distal end.

28. (New) The needle protector of Claim 11 wherein said unitary body is comprised of a substantially transparent plastic material.

29. (New) The needle protector of Claim 1 wherein a portion of said multiple profile window is sized to substantially retain the plastic tube of a needle assembly.